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**March Is Women’s History**

**And**

**Reading Month**

In her article, *Did You Know? Facts Highlighting Women for Women History Month and International Women’s Day,* Linda Lowen stated that next Tuesday will mark the 100th anniversary of Women’s History Month. In 1911, the annual event of the International Women’s Day originated in Europe. A group of teachers from California observed the day and celebrated it in America. In 1980, U.S. Congress signed and passed a bill for Women’s Day to become a month in America. Women’s Month celebrates women and promotes the need for greater gender equity. Lowen stated that women’s achievements and contributions are spotlighted by many websites and organizations. (Lowen, 2011)

During Women’s History Month, teachers can read books to children on famous women who fought for women’s rights such as Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman, Queen Latifah and many others. Teachers can talk about Sacagawea, the Native-American woman who led Lewis and Clark on their expedition. Sacagawea has the most landmarks in America than any woman in history. Susan B. Anthony is on the silver one dollar coin. Sacagawea is on the golden one dollar coin. After Susan B. Anthony’s death, the 19th amendment was established. It allowed women the right to vote. Students can watch movies that display women fighting for their rights. Throughout the month, students can write a report and talk about the women in their lives who they love and admire. Students can get into groups and make a timeline on certain famous women. They can put themselves into the timeline of when they were born. Teachers can have students to write a poem. It does not have to rhyme. If I was teaching a 4th or 5th grade class of Women’s History Month, I will introduce them to the book entitled, *Hip Hop Speaks* to Children by Nikki Giovanni. This children’s picture book is very entertaining and colorful. It is a New York Times best seller. In the book are many peoms from different artists. The book has Queen Latifah’s lyrics of *Ladies First*. The Queen bashes male rappers who disrespect women in the music industry. Students can come up with their own poetry or rap talking about women in a positive way. It can be Organic Rap Music. Many people can talk about how Mother Nature (the Earth) is being destroyed by Global Warming. The peom can be about everything as long as the words are clean. Everybody should do the best that they can. Also, a guess speaker can come to the class or school and talk about Women’s History Month. During the month, the teacher can show the class women’s inventions such as the Barbie Doll, Liquid Paper (Wite Out) the European Press Comb for African-America Hair. At the end of the month, teachers can quiz the students on *Whose That Famous Woman*. It will be fun and fascinating to introduce children to information that they have never been exposed to. In my opinion, I will not talk about domestic violence to the class. It may be a personal and sensitive subject to some students. However, the *Burning Bed* starring Farah Fawcett was a true story that happened in the State of Michigan.

According to CNN website, *Women’s History Month 2011: Discussion and Learning Activities and Discussions* stated Students can come up with a theme for Women’s History Month. Students can do research online of women in government. Students can observe women on television. We have our VIEW. CNN stated that people need to reflect the importance of women. Many people do not know that March is Women’s History Month. According to research, the teachers in California who started Women History Month in America wanted teachers and everybody to get the word out and celebrate the Women History Month. (CNN, 2011)

Entrepreneurs, inventors and innovators — both men and women — have been making history for centuries. It was just 31 years ago that President Jimmy Carter issued the first-ever Presidential Proclamation in recognition of Women’s History to recognize, honor, and celebrate the achievements of American women. In that Proclamation he stated, “Too often the women [in our history] were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.”

In conclusion, Women History is important to study. Today, women are receiving lower wages than men. Historically, women were not allowed to own land, control their own wages and/or have custody of their children. There are many biases against women. There are many people who believe that women should not be preachers, leaders or presidents. The Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson. He stated that all men are created equal. Did he say anything about women? Are ALL Men are created equal. High school students can discuss this matter. Students can discuss *A* *People’s History in the United States of America* written by Howard Zinn. According to Zinn, Thomas Jefferson’s statements were not for women. Furthermore, we can examine what Zinn said about women’s history in the United States of America. Once, he was a professor at a black woman’s college known as Spelman. I liked the articles that I have read from the website. However, they could been a little informative.

**Resources**

1. Did You Know? Highlighting Facts on Women on Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day by Linda Lowen. 2011. [www.about.com](http://www.about.com)
2. Women’s History Month 2011: Discussion and Learning Activities and Discussion Questions. 2011. CNN. www.CNN.com